

DEER CREEK SALVAGE LIMITED ACCESS TIMBER SALE

November 20, 2006 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Bozeman Unit (CLO) – Approximately 9 air miles southeast of Big Timber, Montana.
- Sweet Grass County – Section 16, T2S-R15E
- 100% Common Schools Trust
- **Limited Access** – The surrounding Sierra Ranch has granted access to one individual for the sole purpose of salvaging timber on this section.

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated sale volume is 6,700 tons (1,000 MBF) with a negotiated value of \$105,365.00.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$.40/ton for Forest Improvement would be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 6.7 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale contains 9 harvest units totaling 247 acres.
- The entire State parcel was burned during the 2006 Derby Fire leaving a mosaic of light to severely burned areas of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. A regeneration harvest would be applied to the moderate to severely burned areas and a group selection/selection harvest would be applied to the light to moderately burned areas favoring Douglas-fir.
- No old growth would be harvested.

Harvest Systems:

- 100% tractor/ground based harvest equipment

Road Construction:

- Access to the sale is across existing roads. Approximately 0.19 miles of temporary, minimum standard new road construction would be required within the sale area. All new construction would meet current BMP's.

Public Involvement:

- The proposed Purchaser (Kelly Coffin) initiated this Limited Access salvage sale opportunity through a written proposal received by the DNRC on November 1, 2006. In order to react quickly to salvage timber burned on the Derby Fire and to take advantage of the limited access opportunity the department utilized a public comment period of 14 days. The short timeline was also necessary to meet the surrounding landowner's (Sierra Ranch) requirement that any harvest done on state ownership be concurrent with harvest on the ranch.
- Public involvement was solicited through legal publications in the *Bozeman Chronicle*, *Livingston Enterprise*, *Carbon County News (Red Lodge)* and the *Billings Gazette*. Letters were also sent to individuals and interested parties. The public, DNRC specialists and specialists from other agencies identified the issues that were analyzed. The main identified concerns focused on addressing impacts associated with road use and access, maintaining water quality, providing for soil protection and addressing noxious weeds on the fire impacted landscape.

Comments were received from the Sweet Grass County Commissioners and the WildWest Institute.

Issues and Mitigations:

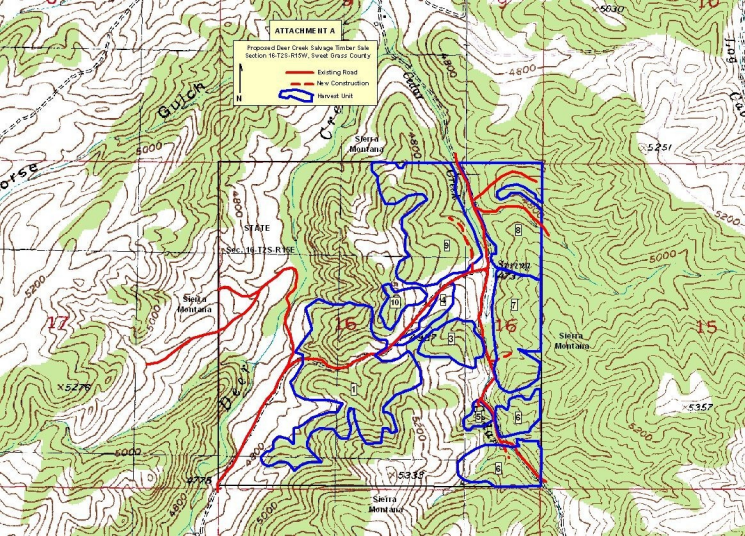
- **Road Use/Access/Construction** – Access to the sale is across existing roads through private property. The potential Purchaser has a signed exclusive temporary road use agreement with the surrounding ranch that gives the Purchaser permission to use the roads to conduct logging operations on Section 16, T2S, R15E. The Department would sell this timber to Kelly Coffin pursuant to 77-5-201 (3)(b)(i) MCA. The Purchaser would be solely responsible for all haul fees and maintenance on the roads covered by the granted temporary road use agreement.
- **Water Quality** – Upgrades to existing roads would be used to control run-off more effectively and current BMP's would be followed to protect water quality. Temporary roads and skid trails would be closed and be grass seeded to reduce potential sediments.
- **Soils** – Productivity would be addressed by leaving woody debris in the woods to facilitate nutrient recycling. Erosion concerns would be addressed by seasonal harvesting limits, approval of a general skidding plan and revegetation of disturbed sites.
- **Noxious Weeds** – To limit potential introductions of noxious weeds, an integrated weed management plan would be utilized. This includes required cleaning of off-road harvest equipment, spraying existing weed patches with herbicides, and grass seeding exposed areas and new roads.
- **Grazing Lease** - The grazing lease for Section 16, T2S, R15E is held by the same ranch that has agreed to grant access for logging operations.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Deer Creek Salvage Limited Access Timber Sale.

ATTACHMENT A

Proposed Deer Creek Salvage Timber Sale
Section 16-T2S-R15W, Sweet Grass County

- Existing Road
- New Construction
- Harvest Unit



Deer Creek Salvage Timber Sale Vicinity Map

